

"Joshua," "Coat of Many Colors," "Touch Your Woman," and "Jolene." In 1973, Parton left the *Porter Wagoner Show* but he continued to produce her recordings and help guide her career; however, in 1976, she severed all ties with Wagoner and set out to broaden her appeal into the pop market. With the movies *9 to 5*, in which she co-starred with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin (and wrote and sang the title number) and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, Dolly Parton proved she could make it in Hollywood as well as Nashville. Also during the 1980s she had a network variety show on ABC, *Dolly*, which did not survive; however, she continued to write and record hit songs.

Although her success as a movie star and recording artist are obvious, she has also achieved a great deal of unheralded success as a songwriter (she wrote "I Will Always Love You" as well as numerous other songs) and businessperson (she established "Dollywood" in the Smoky Mountains, which is a major tourist draw and provides employment in that economically disadvantaged region).

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Partridge Family, The (1970-1974), the TV show, chronicled the fictional adventures of a musical family on the road in their multi-colored bus and at their California home. The Friday prime-time show created a pop music sensation worth 20 million albums and millions of dollars of merchandise. The show's star, David Cassidy, has called *The Partridge Family* "the last gasp of innocence in America."

In the first episode, the five Partridge children hold a recording session in their garage. When they ask mom to sing backup, they wind up with a hit, "I Think I Love You," a song which indeed climbed to No. 1 in the charts by the week of November 21, 1970, and sold 4 million copies.

The cast featured Shirley Jones (1934-), star of stage and movie musicals such as *Oklahoma!* (1955) and *Carousel* (1956) and Academy Award winner for her performance in *Elmer Gantry* (1960). Jones played Shirley Partridge, a widowed suburban mother who headed this musical group. David Cassidy (1950), Shirley Jones's real-life stepson (she married actor Jack Cassidy [1927-76] in 1956), was cast as 16-year-old teen heartthrob, Keith Partridge. Distinctive for his flyaway shag hair, Cassidy in real life, too, did have musical talent and enjoyed pop stardom. Former fashion model Susan Dey (1952-) played 15-year-old Laurie, habitually committing herself to good causes and bedeviling Keith. Danny Bonaduce (1959-) played the mercenary 10-year-old Danny, the band's bassist. Wily Danny enjoyed rankling the band's manager, Reuben Kincaid, portrayed with neurotic distraction by Dave Madden, formerly of

Laugh-In. Jeremy Gelbwaks (1961-) was 7-year-old drummer Christopher during the show's first season only; he was replaced by Brian Forster (1961-), whose show-biz family included grandfather Alan Napier (Alfred the butler on TV's *Batman*). Semi-entity Tracy, the 5-year-old tambourinist, was played by Suzanne Crough (1963-), a child actress in commercials. Blending the traditional TV family's wholesomeness with mod 1970s culture and fashion, this "instant" group acquired an intensely loyal following. The series ranked among the Top 20 according to Nielsen ratings for both the 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons.

The Partridge Family albums could claim vocals only from Cassidy and Jones, and she mostly background; studio musicians did the rest. The pre-fab strategy was successful though, as their first two albums, produced by Bell Records, hit the charts. Five subsequent albums through 1973 fared less spectacularly.

The Partridge Family, despite the sugary overlay, was more progressive than most domestic comedy. Jones helped pioneer the role of single mother/working woman without the show being obsessed with finding the family a husband/father.

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Pass, Joe (1929-1994), born Joe Passalacqua, was a highly regarded guitar soloist and vocal accompanist. In his late teens, he played with a number of big bands, including Tony Pastor and Charlie Barnet. He accompanied both Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald and was a sideman for Oscar Peterson. The range of his playing was remarkable.

In common with many other musicians of his generation, Pass was hooked on drugs. From the early 1950s into the early 1960s, he went into virtual obscurity, playing anywhere just to get money to feed his habit. He served prison time for that addiction. However, in 1961, he and other musicians who were members of Synanon recorded and released an album which marked his comeback.

Still, he remained in the relative shadows of studio recordings and vocal accompanist until the release of his 1973 album, *Virtuoso*. Since that time, he was highly regarded as a leading figure on his instrument and in great demand. He recorded duets with Zoot Sims, Count Basie, Oscar Peterson, and Jimmy Rowles, among others.

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